

APR 9 1953

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CROCKETT
x Ag 3 James S. KRONTHAL

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2D CIA AGENT WITHIN 8 DAYS TRIES SUICIDE

Analyst Fails in Effort To End Life

An analyst for the super-secret central intelligence agency was near death here last night after an apparent attempt at suicide was thwarted by his precautions that no one else be harmed.

Police said they found Frederick E. Crockett, 45, sprawled unconscious on a chair in his apartment at the Carillon house, 2500 Wisconsin Ave. NW.

The Crockett case was similar to one involving another CIA official which occurred eight days earlier. The earlier victim was James Speyer Kronthal, 40, who died an apparent suicide. The coroner has yet to rule in Kronthal's death pending completion of chemical analysis.

Pair Not in Contact

A spokesman at the agency said Crockett's duties never had put him in contact with Kronthal.

Crockett was in "critical" condition last night in Gallinger hospital. Capt. Daniel O. Fletcher, of No. 7 police precinct, said there was evidence that the federal worker had taken barbiturates.

Crockett's name was entered in the book at No. 7 for mental observation.

He was found after a newspaper carrier boy noticed a note propped on a window sill of the apartment warning anyone who entered: "Danger, gas—do not light matches." The boy notified building manager James Robertson, who said four gas jets on the apartment stove were wide open.

Ironically, the natural gas used in Washington causes no toxic effects. An accumulation of the gas sufficient to replace all the oxygen present eventually could smother a person, however.

Police Find Notes

Also found in the apartment, police said, were notes addressed to police and to a brother, Davey Crockett, of Ipswich, Mass. The note to police declared Crockett

was not satisfied with the job he was doing at the CIA detectives said.

In his note to police, Fletcher said, Crockett wrote that he intended to "take his own life." A note left by Kronthal, detectives said, indicated he was depressed by the pressure of his administrative duties at the agency.

In the Kronthal case, police found an empty vial near the victim's body in his home at 1662 Thirty-second St. NW. Investigators yesterday said they found an empty vial and an empty bottle—both of which are believed to have contained seconal—in Crockett's apartment.

It was learned, meanwhile, that laboratory experts assigned to determine the cause of Kronthal's death are conducting a "very difficult analysis," and that they are concentrating their efforts on finding traces of morphine in the victim's organs.

Served in War

Altho Crockett lives alone, CIA records show that he is married. He served with the Army as a lieutenant colonel during World War II, and also holds a reserve lieutenant commander's commission in the Navy.